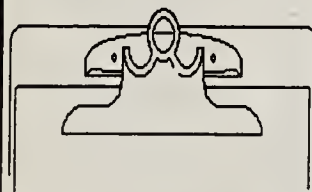


Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana

Editor's News Notes



- TODAY, Dec. 10:
Big Screen Movie at 9pm
in the Auditorium ("A
Perfect Murder"). Spon-
sored by SUB.

- Friday, Dec. 11:
Father Dominic Gerlach,
C.P.P.S. Birthday.
Big Screen Movie at 7pm
in the Auditorium.

- Sunday, Dec. 13:
SJC Band Christmas
Concert in the Ballroom at
2pm.

- Monday, Dec. 14:
All Campus Christmas
Celebration in the Chapel
at 9pm.

- Thursday, Dec.
17: Residence Halls close
at 6pm. Last day for term
981.

- Thursday, Dec.
17- Sunday, Jan. 10:
**HAVE A MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

- Sunday, Jan. 10:
Residence Halls open at
12pm.

- Monday, Jan. 11:
Classes for semester 982
begin at 8am sharp.

**GOOD LUCK
WITH FINALS!**

Large Band with a Large Sound

by Sarah Post

The SJC marching band is larger this year, than it has been since 1972, topping the charts with 15 color guard members and 70 instrumentalists this fall.

The band performed their show "A salute to John Williams" at the four home Puma football games. Although the rising number of participants in the band on a whole is positive, it causes a rather large problem for the band. The current marching uniforms have been worn for more than 10 years and are obviously showing their signs of hard use. New uniforms are greatly needed, not only because of the poor conditions of the ones they use now, but also because the number of the uniforms are running out. The band has become so large that if the membership increases next year, there will not be enough uniforms to outfit the entire band. Buying new uniforms is a very costly project but necessary at this point for the Puma marching band.

When Puma band director Robb Thiel first came to teach at St. Joe, the concert band contained only 19 people. There was not much a 19 member band could do at that time, but Thiel found it interesting nonetheless. Over the past six years the band has grown tremendously under Thiel's direction, to a very impressive 85 members.

The concert band which doubles as the pep band, cheers on both the men's and women's teams at all of their home basketball games.

The band presently has two concerts scheduled, an upcoming Christmas concert and a spring concert, in addition it plays at commencement. However, Thiel hopes to award his hard working band members with a concert band tour this coming Spring. Thiel says everyone looks for-



photo by Charles Mari...

The SJC Marching Band performs "A Tribute to John Williams" at a home football game.

ward to the trips because the band doesn't get many other opportunities to travel.

Thiel stresses a "no pressure" environment with the band. He tells his students that he simply wants to create a place where they can enjoy themselves and get away from their studies for awhile.

The band invites everyone to come to their concert Sunday in the ballroom and see what they have been working hard on this semester. Take a break from your studies to listen to a little festive Christmas music, and let them get you in spirit for the holidays.

The entire SJC family would like to thank the band for all their hard work, and wish them luck in their upcoming concert.

Don't Miss Out on Your Chance Capture the Spirit of Christmas

by Lynn Rainey

The real meaning of Christmas doesn't lie in what is under the tree for us. Many people have forgotten that. So, campus ministry is helping students to realize this. They are sponsoring The Giving Tree which creates donations for needy children. The tree is inside the chapel and contains "ornaments" that have certain items on them. Your job is to get those items and

return them beneath the tree. Then, put your name, your family, or your dorm, (whoever purchased the items), on a real ornament and replace the paper one. All the items purchased go to local community service centers such as the Birthright or Crisis Center.

They in turn will distribute the small offerings to those less fortunate. Even though money is tight

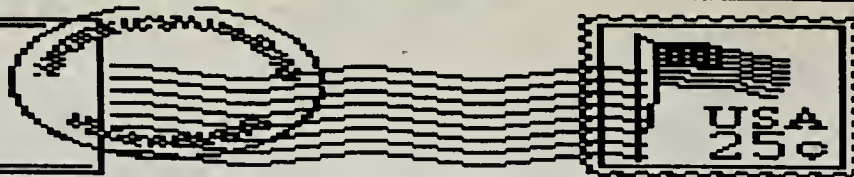
for most, remember it is something small that will mean something to someone who may have not gotten anything at all.

Megan Taylor, who is mostly responsible for the giving tree states, "I think that giving on Christmas not only helps us remember the real meaning of the season, but teaches us to carry on that spirit long after the tree comes down. It is easy

to give and make such an impact. The tree will be up all through advent. All you have to do is walk into the chapel to realize the real meaning of Christmas while helping someone who really needs it.

If you have any questions, you may contact Megan Taylor at ext. 8054.

Letters to the Editor



Deck the Halls! 'Tis the season! Merry Hanukkah! Happy Kwanza! The holidays make me sick. Gaudy, excessive decorations, sickeningly sweet, annoying Christmas Carols sung by every other yahoo with a recording contract, lovely holiday dinners spent with your crazy, gun-toting uncle and people trampling each other to get their hands on a Furbie. Does anybody even know what a Furbie does???? Aside from the fact that every other commercial on TV has some pudgy, alcoholic loser passing himself off as St. Nick and everyone in the Western world seems to have lost any grasp they may have had on reality, along with any semblance of good taste, there's one thing about the holiday season that arouses my most passionate flames on contempt and loathing.

Soup kitchens and homeless shelters are overbooked with people wanting to volunteer their time. The kettles of those nerve wracking, bell ringing hellions from the Salvation Army are overflowing with donations. Churches experience massive attendance explosions. Why is that? What is it that causes this extreme shift in other people's behavior? What leads to this sudden change of heart that makes the Average Joe more generous, more caring this time of year? Is it genuine kindness and concern for one's fellow man? Is it a desire to lead a truly "Christian" lifestyle? No. In reality, it is nothing more than self interest and good old fashioned egotism.

If a person truly cared about the plight of the homeless or the hungry or any of the world's disadvantaged groups, he or she would take an active part in crusading for that cause 12 months a year. You give up a few hours in December, pass out some meat to a guy who hasn't had a clean set of underwear since 1973 and you make yourself feel good. You can tell everybody what a difference you made and how big it was of you to give up your precious time. It's self-righteous, self-gratification, nothing more. It's a way to placate your ego and show the world what a "good" person you are. There are even people on this campus abstaining from eating so they can relate better to the homeless. How does not eating help do anything except to boost your own pompous self importance? In reality, someone who can only find time to help others during the winter months is no better than those of us who don't help out at all. The only difference is that those of us who do not make the effort don't have to strive so hard to lie to ourselves.

Donating a tiny portion of your time or money at Christmas, in the grand scheme of things, really does little to help. If you want to make a difference, do it year round. If you want to be a good Christian, take a hands on, direct approach and do it all the time. Donate a portion of your paycheck to charity every week. Even if it's a small portion, it's better than nothing. Next time you go to McDonald's, buy an extra cheeseburger and toss it to the wino on the corner as you walk home. Next time you decide to fast, give the food you would normally have eaten to a needy kid. That's how you help make the world a better place. You do it every day despite the inconvenience. If you're not willing to make the effort, then stop trying to fool yourself and go back to complimenting yourself on what a great person you are. Stop ringing those bells and eat something!

Chris Greski
Senior

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Pseudonyms are no longer to be used in The Observer. This decision has created some controversy on campus. Some say that the creative community of SJC should be able to submit poetry and short stories anonymously. Others complain that it was done in the past and it is therefore unfair to deny others the same privilege. Still others think we're just plain mean.

There are three main reasons for The Observer's decision not to use aliases. The first is to ensure that the person responsible for the work accepts that responsibility. If the writer won't stand behind the work, how can anyone else? If it's good enough to be in print then it's good enough to have a real name behind it. It muddles the message of the work if the reader keeps wondering who the author really is. The second reason seems obvious; credit. There is a great deal of really good creative writing that passes across the editor's desk and we like to see people get credit for it when it's published. Finally, there's the subject of fairness. It's not fair to allow some to sign their work, take credit and responsibility for it, and not have the same standards for everybody. Also, it has often happened that there are particular poems or stories that we feel really have to have a name with them in order to make them valid, poems about the nameless faces of the Klu Klux Klan, for instance.

One exception to the "no pseudonym" policy is in "Letters to the Editor." Although we would prefer everyone to claim their work, we encourage open discussion of current Campus concerns, and for this reason will accept pseudonyms with letters to the editor.

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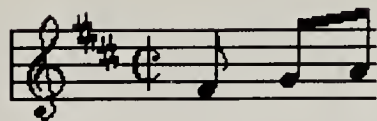
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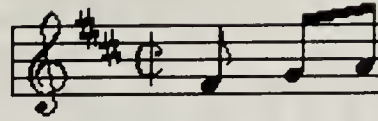
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Letters to the Editor:
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edit for Length)
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include telephone number.
Pseudonyms accepted but
discouraged.
*The Editorial Board reserves
the right not to print letters
found to violate applicable
policies*

Music Ministry Keeps Busy



by Sarah Stipher



The Music Ministry program at Saint Joe is having a busy year. Music Ministry, under the direction of Jeremy Hoy, is a part of Campus Ministry. Hoy describes Music Ministry as a group of vocalists and instrumentalists who assist in liturgical celebrations on campus. "Our job is not to perform, but to assist and lead the assembly in prayer and song," Hoy said. This has been the second year that Hoy has been the director. There are currently thirty-five members, which, Hoy said, is double the size of the group from last year. The Advisor to Music Ministry is currently Father Jim Challancin.

Several events have kept Music Ministry busy recently. On December 5, they sang Christmas carols at Francesville Parkhaven Nursing Home. On Wednesday, December 9, a penance service was held in which Music Ministry participated. Then on Thursday, December 10, Music Ministry will be involved with the Mass of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass is part of a celebration to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Lourdes Grotto. There will be a Christmas Mass on Monday, Dec. 14. The SJC Choir will join them in this celebration. Music Ministry hopes to travel to Lake Village, Indiana, to sing at the parish of St. Augusta.

All of this activity follows an equally busy previous year. Last year, Music Ministry traveled to Wauassee, Indiana, where they joined members from Saint Mary's College choir in singing at a Youth Rally for the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend. On top of all of this, Music Ministry continues to provide music and song for regular Sunday Masses, Midweek Mass, Holy Days, and other special events. This is a very talented group of students. If any of you vocalists and musicians out there would like to join this group, contact Jeremy Hoy at extension 5218.

MEASURE

SJC's Literary Magazine, *Measure*, is now accepting submissions. *Measure* is an annual publication dedicated to featuring the SJC community's literary and artistic talent.

See Lisa Phillips, Tami Hart, or Robert Garrity for submission guidelines!

The Holiday Spirit

by Maura Giles

Christmas is on its way, and just the thought of all that holiday spirit makes me want to lock myself in the house until January. Most of you are probably thinking that I am a regular Scrooge, or the *Grinch*. But on the contrary, it's not the merry carolers or the red-nosed reindeer that I despise about the season. It is in fact, the hustle and bustle of rude people in the stores and on the roads.

I am sure that we have all seen (or been) a part of the famous joust to the death over a must-have Chia Pet. (Okay, maybe for most of you it hasn't been a Chia Pet.) I can't believe that some people express their holiday spirit in this manner of merry mayhem. People are ridiculous during the holiday season.

Last year I was driving down the street, well, I was sitting in traffic anyway. I happened to pull into the mall parking lot. As I circled the lot for the fourteenth time, I saw what appeared to be a parking space.

I got closer and when I was sure that it was a space, I immediately put on my turn signal and my spot. Just as I started to pull into the spot, another car drove into it from the other side (obviously going the wrong way, according to the arrow.) And as they politely showed me their longest finger, I drove closer to the store and wouldn't you know it, a car just pulled out and I got a closer spot than my new-found friends did. As they trudged through the miles of deep snow behind me, I walked across the plowed part of the parking lot, smiled, and wished them a merry Christmas.

I know that these are stressful times for everyone, but they are also times of family, friends, and goodwill to men (and women). I'd like to try to persuade everyone to demonstrate the true holiday spirit this season by giving up that one Chia Pet, or parking space, as the case may be. Who knows, maybe Chia Pets will go on sale the next day, or you will find a closer parking space. But until then, have a merry Christmas. God bless us, everyone.

Freshmen Lead the Way

by Maura Giles

This year, SJC has developed a new group for student leadership. The Freshmen Leadership Council is a group of thirty-four assorted Freshmen, who have been nominated by their Freshmen Leaders and Advisors to join forces and bring into view new ways to improve Saint Joe's. The group is headed-up by Marge McIlwain and consists of many other supporting staff members.

The group had their kickoff meeting for the Council on Wednesday, November 18, at noon in Science 313.

After eating and getting to know each other, the group broke up into small groups and brainstormed about possible activities - social, academic, service, trips, anything creative - that they might want to sponsor and support at SJC. The activities would not be limited to the freshmen class, but could span all of SJC and the community.

Some of the topics discussed were exciting things some people did with high school groups, and involvement in campus organizations that are already planning events. However, the greatest concern seemed to be participation of activities on campus.

After a few meetings, the group will decide what projects they would like to pursue and make committees to see that it happens.

Senate Update:

by Michael Nichols

At December 7th's meeting, the Student Senate discussed new ways of composing the Senate to involve more students and create more interest in student government amongst the student population. A second item of business was a presentation by a representative from Cup O Joe. The organizers of Cup O Joe would like to have a greater draw on Student Association funds. The Senate is currently taking their proposal under advisement. In other news, the December 9th meeting of the faculty assembly will decide the fate of the current revisions to the alcohol policy. S.A. President Michael Nichols will be in attendance to report on student views and concerns.

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Don't forget to get your tickets to the annual Justin/ Halas Christmas Dance.

Date: Saturday,

December 12th

Time: 8:30pm-12pm

Tickets: \$7 single

\$10 couple

Tickets may be purchased from:

Kelly Fahey - Justin 338 E.

Carrie Carping - Justin 328 W.

Kelly Gandurski - Halas 210

Dave Del Principe - Merlini 207

Tim Chambers - Noll 211



Grotto celebrates 100th anniversary

by Polly Rainey

On a cold winter day in early December of 1898, the Lourdes Grotto was dedicated. One hundred years later, the SJC community will be celebrating the anniversary of this sacred place on campus.

The exact date was December 8, which, for Catholics, is the day of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The grotto was built from the inspiration and plans of Fauslin Bernard Ersing, a Precious Blood seminarian. It was described by the college newspaper, *The Collegian*, as "situated at the south end of the grove encircled by a few sturdy oaks spreading out their enormous limbs for protection and cooling shade. With arched walls of unhewn rock, it resembles a natural hollow in solid stone."

The Blessed Virgin sat atop a pile of stones with the shepherd girl, Bernadette, looking up toward the Blessed Virgin. The image of St. Mary came from the images which were believed to have appeared to children.

Years later, in November of 1931, Father Albin Scheidler set forth with several additions to make the grotto more attractive and elaborate. The grotto

was enlarged to its present size of 254 feet in length and 22 feet at the highest points. Workers brought in over 1,200 tons of stones and cement. Besides the size, the main addition was an interior cave and a Carra marble statue of Christ in Gethsemane.

There are no additions to the grotto expected in the near future. The person responsible for the upkeep of the grotto is Fr. Rueve. The main objective of the grotto was to establish a spot for students to have a place to be in communion with God or to have a quiet place to relax. Fr. Ildephonse Rapp stated the importance of the grotto in his dedicatory sermon stating that it is, "a place of prayer and inspiration for future generations of students."

The majority of students visit the grotto during the spring and the late fall. The grotto is more than just a religious place to many students. It is a place to find a little peace and quiet. Especially during finals, the grotto may be a place to find a little help from God. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the grotto, there will be a candlelight procession and a re-dedication Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The candlelight procession will be held following the nine o'clock mass in the vestibule of the chapel.



Prayer for the Rededication of Lourdes Grotto

by Fr. Jim Challancin

Living God,
you fashioned Mary
into a special vessel of love
to carry out her role
in your plan of salvation for us.

Grant that this grotto,
dedicated to her,
will always be a place
of refreshment and peace
for all who come here
seeking respite
from the pressures of study
and the pell-mell pace of the campus.

May it be a place of consolation
for those who come here
bringing their troubles or burdens.

This we ask through Christ our
Lord,
Amen.

Photo by Charles Martin

Student profile: Jamie Riberto goes above and beyond

by Breain Ma'Ayteh

She's on both cross-country and track. She works in the athletic office. She is the tri-director for SUB. And she happened to be voted RA of the month.

Of course I'm talking about Jamie Riberto.

This is one girl who certainly likes to keep herself busy. Also involved with the radio station, Volunteer Corps, and *The Observer*, Riberto is always on the go, and it's rare to see her sitting around and doing nothing.

"I can't sit still," she admits.

Riberto is a senior, majoring in English/Creative Writing, and minoring in Communications. She recently landed an internship at the Rensselaer Republican for the second semester.

During our discussion, we talked a little bit

about where she came from, Oak Lawn, IL. She told me that it was hard for her to adjust to a small town like Rensselaer. However, things got better for her when she started to get involved in the activities on campus.

"The more you get involved, the better your college experience will be," she told me. "I will miss my time on SUB next semester. I really enjoyed it a lot and met some great people."

We also talked about Riberto's title of RA of the month.

RA's are judged by the amount of participation they spend working with the residents on their floor. To keep everyone on her floor up-to-date on projects and events, she designed a newsletter.

Roughly two pages in length, she includes the current floor happenings, birthdays, and congratulations. In addition, each freshman on the floor will be featured in a profile each issue.

Overall, this RA has gone above and beyond the call of duty for the girls on her floor.

Riberto also had some comments regarding her professors.

"A lot of professors have inspired me at

St. Joe. I really enjoyed the

classes I had with Mo Minelli. She is really a lot of fun in class and she has taught me a lot."

"The more you get involved, the better your college experience will be."

-- Jamie Riberto

Christmas Break job is eye-opening experience

Job at meat packaging plant gives student greater appreciation for value of hard work

—by Zachary Pala—

Over my past Christmas break, a friend of my father offered me a job at a meat packaging company. Even though I had no idea what I would be doing, I jumped at the opportunity to earn some money.

My mother was not exactly thrilled at the thought that her son would be working at a meat packaging company. She felt it would be dangerous. However, her feelings did not stop me. I figured it would only be for a few days, and I could really use the money. How bad could it be?

On my first day, I arrived at the plant and reported to the main office where I met my supervisor, Rich. He led me into the plant and as soon as we entered the working area hallway, I was overtaken by a sickening odor that resembled singed hair. Rich explained that, "We have to burn the hair

off of the calves' legs and tails because it has no real use." We proceeded down the hall, until we reached the packaging department.

The first thing I felt as we entered his huge room was a significant drop in temperature. I could see my breath as one would on a frigid winter day. This room contained twenty workers who were responsible for the wrapping and packaging of all the different pieces of meat that the company manufactured. The workers used long conveyer machines and powerful saws that filled this huge refrigerator with a constant roar.

My duty in this process was to wrap the meat in a thick saran wrap, pack it in a heavy duty plastic bag, and put it in a conveyer machine that seals the bag shut and drains all of the air out of it. The hardest part of my job was getting used to using my numb hands constantly. In order to wrap the meat, I needed to pick it up, and with every touch my hands would get colder and colder. I can remember shivering so hard that I almost slipped a few times on the grease and fat that covered the floor. I noticed,

however, that most of the other workers were not wearing gloves and were still doing their jobs at incredible speeds. The guy wrapping across from me would have three pieces of meat done before I had done one.

The working atmosphere was gloomy and impersonal. I had worked nearly a whole day and no one said a word to me except for Rich. When my first day came to an end, I was more than happy to go home. At home that night, I could not help but think about the people who worked there day in and day out. Over the next five days that I spent as a meat packer, I developed an even greater sympathy for the "lifers."

I learned in my days working

there about the hardships that these workers had to endure. Some workers who gave the calves water and cared for them in the morning were the same men who cut their throats with ten-inch knives by midday. For other workers, their only function was

to mop up the blood that was caused by the slaughtering of the calves. Then there were the workers who were assigned to melting down all the leftovers -- fat, bones, etc. -- for use in cosmetic

"I could not help but think about the people who worked there day in and day out. Over the next five days that I spent as a meat packer, I developed an even greater sympathy for the 'lifers.'"

products. This department was simply known as "Hell." Every time too many shovels of leftovers were thrown into the melting pot, a flame would shoot up in the air, which sparked a shout "Hell!" from the workers.

In the days I spent working there, I felt the psychological as well as the physical strain that goes along with working in the meat packing industry. Upton Sinclair was right when he wrote in his book *The Jungle* that the workers' lives become their jobs. Sinclair felt that the meat packaging industry desensitized its workers and alienated them from the outside world. Sinclair's theory is very evident in the modern day industry. The grueling and horrid work transforms the workers into zombie-like beings that are not in touch with the real world. All they know and relate to is their jobs.

I sometimes drive past the meat packaging company when I go home. There are times when I stop and think about dropping in and saying hello to Rich, but I never do. I don't know if it is because I don't want to be reminded of the strenuous days I spent there, or if it is the guilt of knowing that I was able to return to school after six days while the other workers have to earn their living there. But, maybe I should stop sometime. It could refresh my memory of just how lucky I am.

A sophomore's point of view:

Hey, it's better than being a freshman...

—by Melinda Burdan—

Well, here I am a sophomore at SJC. Not as new as the freshmen and not as old as the seniors. Yep, I am stuck in the middle. I feel like it was just yesterday when I was new and had no clue about where that class was going to be or who to go to with certain problems. The truth is that I already know that stuff, or most of it, but I still feel like I am as new as a freshmen.

My freshman year was tough. I started out in a major that I would later find I hated, I left my two best friends and my family, and my roommate was not exactly the cream of the crop. By the end of first semester, I wanted to pack my bags, go home and never think about SJC again. But everyone had faith in me and told me to try second semester. Then if I didn't like it, MAYBE my parents would let me go somewhere else. I came back second semester to no major, a couple of really great friends and no roommate. Hey, after first semester, it couldn't get much worse. Second semester proved to be definitely better. I grew up a little and realized that mommy and daddy weren't going to be around to fix my life forever. My life was whatever I decided to make it.

I came back to SJC to begin my sophomore year with a whole new outlook. I have finally found the one major I really like and think I will be good at, and I have one of the greatest roommates in the world, who with a

couple of other people has been added to my list of best friends. Life is good. Even when I was hit with the worst tragedy anyone could ever imagine, the people at SJC were there to support me.

My sophomore year academically has improved a lot. I have the same amount of classes I had first semester of my freshman year, yet it doesn't feel like it. My dad always said that as I got older, I would spend less time studying because I would learn how to study. I used to laugh at him because I thought that there was no way anyone could learn how to study. Come to find out, it isn't how you study, it is what you study. Plus, with a small campus, you get to know the instructors better and become more accustomed to the type of questions they will ask.

I guess what I have been trying to say is that sophomore year, for me, has been a lot of wake-up calls. You aren't a freshmen anymore, even though sometimes you still feel like you just got here for the first time. My freshmen year was about changes and learning how to accept those changes. This year has included more stability for me and has also made SJC feel like a home. Granted the cafe food is nothing like Mom's, I have to share a bathroom with 20 other girls and I constantly have to hear people yelling outside my window at three am, but I don't think that I could imagine going to school anywhere else.

Games Ahead

December 12

1:00 PM Women's Basketball versus Hillsdale College

December 19

1:00 PM Women's Basketball at IUPUI Fort Wayne

7:30 PM Men's Basketball at IPFW

January 2

1:00 PM Women's Basketball at Lewis University

7:30 PM Men's Basketball at Lewis University

January 4

3:00 PM Men's Basketball at University of Wisconsin-Parkside

5:30 Women's Basketball versus University of Wisconsin-Parkside

January 7

5:30 PM Women's Basketball versus Northern Kentucky University

7:30 PM Men's basketball versus Northern Kentucky University

January 9

1:00 PM Women's Basketball versus University of Indianapolis

3:00 PM Men's Basketball versus University of Indianapolis

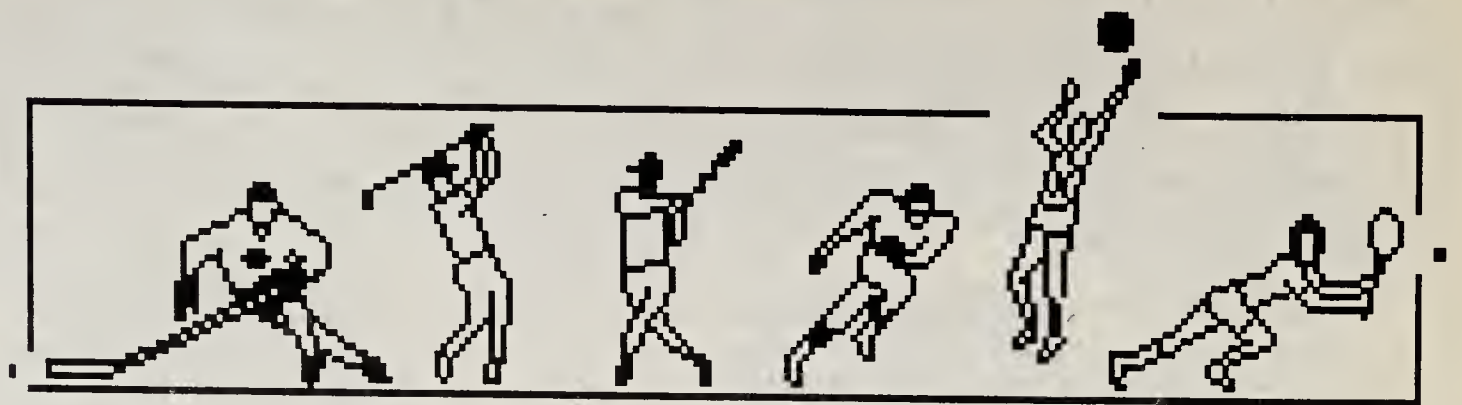
Happy Holidays!!!

Puma Sports Hotline

866-6000 Ext. 4786

Then press 1

Courtesy of Joe Danahey



THE SJC MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM BEGINS THE SEASON

By Jamie Riberto

After an exciting win over Quincy University, the Pumas were unable to maintain their winning record.

They suffered two losses this past weekend against Ball State and South Carolina State to bring their record to 3-2.

The Pumas defeated Quincy last week 89-77 with Brandon Yates leading the way with a career high of eighteen points. Luther Buie recorded his first double-double as he scored thirteen points and grabbed ten rebounds. Brent Mason and AJ VanBelkum both chipped in ten points as well.

Head Coach Balza felt that the team played well against Quincy and accomplished many of the goals that were set forth before the game.

"The guys played hard and dived for loose balls. They played smart and overwhelmed Quincy with our conditioning, proving that we worked hard in the off-season" Balza expressed.

The Pumas participated in the Ball State tournament this past weekend and lost on Friday night to Ball State 90-57. Freshman, Brent Mason led with thirteen points and Greg Taylor had eleven points. Saturday in the consolation game, the Pumas lost to South Carolina State in a close game 88-82. The Pumas were led by Greg

Taylor and Rory Johnson's nineteen points. Goldie Ashford added eleven and Brandon Yates chipped in ten.

Coach Balza and the team have set forth a few goals for themselves for the season. They hope to improve every day, to play better as a team, to qualify for the conference tournament even though they are not eligible to play in it, and for the seniors to go out on a winning note.

"The guys played hard and dived for loose balls. They played smart and overwhelmed Quincy with our conditioning, proving that we worked hard in the off-season."

-Balza

"One big thing we are trying to do is get better on a daily basis. If guys continue to put in the time, they will continue to get better in practice and will continue to make strides and hopefully improve" Balza stated.

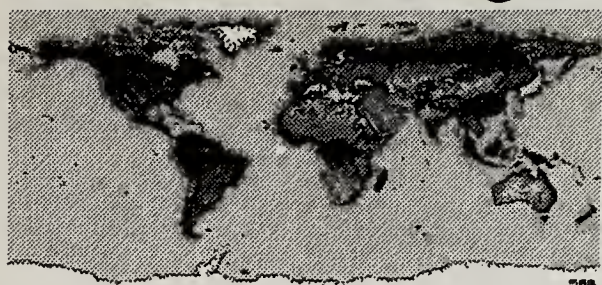
The players are happy with how the season is going thus far. Junior, Greg Taylor and sophomore, Brandon Yates both feel that the Puma's new style of play has really had an effect on the team.

"We are looking a lot stronger this year and our new style of play has everyone excited. We hope to try and finish

top in our conference to show everyone in the Great Lakes Valley Conference that we are for real and we are not a joke" Taylor stated.

"So far the team is getting along really well together. The season looks bright this year. This year is all about gaining our pride and respect, since we can't go to any of the post season tournaments due to past mistakes. We are merely trying to make a name for ourselves this year with our new style of play and competitiveness" Yates commented.

On the Road Again



By Tami Hart

The Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team made their first GLVC road trip of the year. Last Thursday, the Pumas faced Bellarmine College at 7 PM EST in Louisville Kentucky, and on Monday the 7th, SJC faced the Panthers of Kentucky Wesleyan College at 5:15 PM. On Saturday the 12th they will host the Chargers of Hillsdale College at 1 PM.

SJC women's basketball team has had an outstanding streak at home. After losing to Saginaw Valley State University on November 14th, they have won three straight home games. As of December 5th, they are (4-1, 2-0) for the season. They are averaging 88.4 points, 47.8 rebounds, 25 assists, 10.4 steals, and 5 blocked shots per game. They are shooting 46% from the field, 35% from three's and 69% from three-point territory.

The women's basketball team is under the guidance of fifth-year head coach Lynn Plett. They are being led by junior forward Angie Hupfer with 14.8 rebounds per game averages, junior forward Tamara Bumpers is also averaging double digits in scoring with a 21.2 scoring average, and junior guard Dawn Harvey leads the Pumas in assists with 45. Freshman Shanan Jackson has a team high 9 blocked shots.



Photo by Charles Martin

The SJC Men's soccer team in one of their last games of the season



Photo by Charles Martin

The SJC football team in their last home game against Wayne State.

Winning Again

By Tami Hart

Even though the playing season is over, three members of the SJC soccer team earned the National Coaches Athletic Association honors. The three members included, junior forward Mary Reid, junior midfielder Julie Recker, and sophomore defender Sara Booth. These three outstanding athletes were all named to the 1998 NSCAA All-Central Region Team with Reid making the first team while Recker and Booth were both named to the second team.

This season Reid became the All-time leading scorer for both the men and women's program with 135 points on 51 goals and 33 assists. Recker also finished the season with 16 points on five goals scored and dished out six assists. Booth finished the season with 13 points on six goals and one assist.

With the help of these women, the women's soccer team finished the season with a 16-2-2 overall record. Unfortunately, this was the first time in three seasons that the Pumas were not Great Lakes Valley Conference Champions, and they did not receive a bid to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

The Columbian Players' Christmas

by Lisa Phillips

I was pleasantly surprised by the presentation of "Christmas with The Columbian Players". Word on campus was that this production was thrown together faster than a core paper at three in the morning, but the time constraints didn't take away from the overall enjoyment. I would have to say that the One Act choices "On the Road to Egypt" and "The Perfect Gift" were a bit more preachy than I would have liked; very little action and a great deal of talking about common Christmas themes; the birth of Christ and the true nature of giving. The highlight of "On the

Road to Egypt" was Roger Burns' convincing performance as a beggar who recognizes the baby Jesus.

"I don't care how far you traversed, you'll just have to wait" written by Stephen Giles and Will Shannon was a snazzy modern take on the whole 'going to see Jesus' story. Cleverly cast, this play made for an extremely funny and meaningful distraction from the otherwise wholesome playbill.

"Jingle" and "Bell," Mandy Munson and Katie Haendiges, cracked silly jokes in between acts. They succeeded in lightening the mood and keeping the momentum of the event. Among the highlights were "The Night before Christmas: Then and Now" performed by Sara Reasoner and Chris Herrell, a ridiculous

remake of the Christmas classic, and Will Shannon's "A Christmas Carol" written by Tom Leher, a satire of the way we celebrate Christmas.

But by far the best part of the evening came at the end; Improvisation on a Christmas Theme. Although they had incredibly poor luck with "Quotes" and forgot most of the alphabet, or maybe because of that, they managed to keep the audience choking on their cookies and punch with laughter. Stephen Giles' Brother Hugh impression was exceptionally hilarious, followed by Will Shannon's ever-popular Dr. Egan impersonation. "Party Quirks," with Stephen Giles as the Grinch that stole Christmas, nonchalantly stealing the Christmas decorations, and Roger Burns as a Reindeer, leaping off the couch in a failed attempt to fly, had the audience laughing hysterically.

TOP TEN LEAST POPULAR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

10. One walkie talkie
9. Tickets to a live taping to anything on PBS
8. A soiled dress
7. Anything that says "Sam's Club" on it.
6. Red Rider Beebee gun - you'll shoot your eye out!
5. Chia-Jesus
4. The Hanson Christmas album
3. The Complete Works of Faulkner
2. A gift Certificate to Pick 'n' Save

And the Number one Least Popular Christmas gift is....

A sumo wrestler in nothing but a red ribbon & a tag that says "Open me first"

Reunion

A whispering sweet caress
A dream, a thought, a moment
A memory of happiness
An angel God has sent.
You have come to see us now
Though the years have drifted by,
And I hope that you remember how
To smile, to laugh, to cry.
Just as the memory will surely do
In these days of sun.
Know now that this is true...
Our memories have just begun.

by Lisa Phillips

I'm Sorry

To what ends hath I forsaken thee?
To an end I never truly see.
Will I ever really turn and learn?
Making mistakes at every single turn.
So, now I look across the barren sea.
I can never expect to really earn,
All the things I truly need to learn.
Looking, waiting for the one named
"He."

Life without him, I am truly poor.
Changing, shaping; will it hurt.
Opening all the little secret doors.
To release what is true.
So, in the end I will turn to you.

by David Delauro

A Santa Story

When I was five I still believed.
I was sure that Claus was real.
Now I'm just as sure he's dead.
That story I will tell.
I sat up late that Christmas Eve
and waited for Sir Claus.
I heard some bells, a "HO-HO-HO!"
and then there was a pause.
A muffled "help" came floating down
along with bits of soot.
And in my little heart I knew
that something was afoot.
Our chimney, it was rather slender.
Old Santa, he was not.
When he jumped down to leave the toys,
the poor man, he got caught.
Throughout that night and for a week
we tried to get him out.
We made him diet, didn't work.
That man was just to stout.
So he stayed there until the spring.
And he stayed just as round.
We thought he'd stay forever,
but then it rained. He drowned.
How we got that body out,
well, it's a foul story.
I'm afraid that I can not relate
the details; they're too gory.
Sufice to say that Claus is dead.
The elves now run the show.
And Santa, I'm sure we all pray
he's above and not below.

by Sarah Martin

The Night has Become

The night has become my caller
Always there on time, never tardy
Giving sanctuary and solace to a weary wallflower.
The night has become my friend
Never changing, forever, staying the same,
Not surprising, or startling, like the wind.
The night has become my companion,
Waiting without wanting or needing,
Always beating in a timid tandem.
The night has become me
Not having to see through the veiled shadows
But knowing what is to be.

by Tami Hart

Merry Christmas SJC!